

[pets]

PETCETERA

Help pets chill out beneath risky rays



By **KRISTEN LEVINE**
Tribune correspondent

Hot dog, it's nearly summertime! But with the sunshine and outdoor fun come life-threatening seasonal dangers. Heat, humidity and sunlight affect people and pets differently. It's important to understand how our pets cope with overheating so we can prevent heatstroke.

"Heatstroke can cause permanent damage and could result in death if not immediately addressed," says Deborah Draper, medical director at Cypress Creek Animal Hospital in Lutz. "If a pet gets overheated, wet them and use a fan to bring down their body temperature, and get them to a veterinarian as soon as possible."

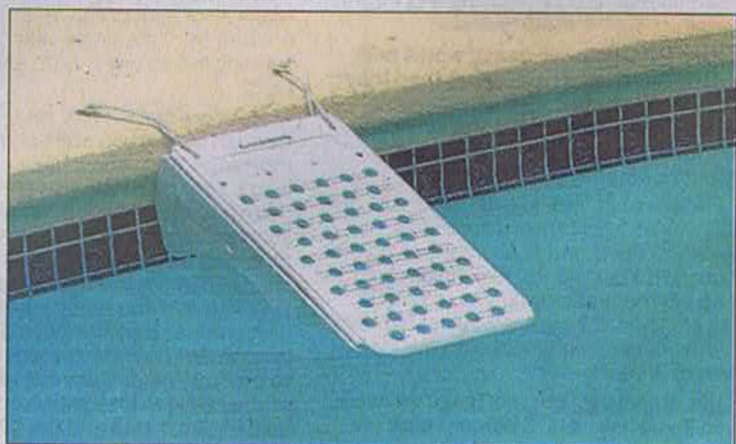
Here are a few cool products to help your pet beat the heat.



Protect the paws

Hot streets and sidewalks can burn tender paw pads. New Pawz are reusable, waterproof dog boots that also protect against fire ants, lawn chemicals and debris. Pawz are available in a variety of sizes and colors.

Prices range from \$12.95 to \$20.95; they're available at Wag, 304 E. Davis Blvd. in Tampa; Fluffy Puppies, 1447 S. Fort Harrison Ave., Clearwater; and www.amazon.com.



Water safety

In Florida, where so many of us have backyard pools, accidental drowning of pets is a sad reality. Protect your pet with a life jacket or pool ramp — or both.

Paws Aboard Doggy Life Jacket and Designer Doggy Life Jackets provide buoyancy and high visibility. They come in a variety of styles, colors and sizes. Prices range from \$23.99 to \$49.99, depending on size, and they're available at Wag, 304 E. Davis Blvd. in Tampa; Fluffy Puppies, 1447 S. Fort Harrison Ave., Clearwater; and www.petco.com.

Skamper-Ramp is an award-winning product that provides pets with an easy way out of the water. It can be used in pools and walled ponds and even off a boat dock. Available in two sizes, it sells for \$64.99 to \$98.99. It's available locally at some Pinch-a-Penny stores; to find a store near you, visit www.skamper-ramp.com.

Fence 'em in

Countless pets are lost, injured or killed when they escape the safe confines of home or yard. The more time pets spend outdoors, the better the chance of escape. Fence Fido or Fifi in safely this summer with an Invisible Fence product.

Pets wear a computer collar that warns them if they get too close to an out-of-bounds area, whether indoors or out. The technology works with personalized training so pets understand the warning and respond appropriately.

Fencing cost varies depending on the size of your yard and amount of training necessary. Indoor solutions can be tailored specifically to a pet's needs. Call 1-877-611-DOGS (3647) or go to www.invisiblefence.com to set up a free consultation.

Write to pet-lifestyle expert **Kristen Levine** at *Fetching Communications, P.O. Box 222, Tarpon Springs FL 34688*, or e-mail her at kristen@fetchingcommunications.com.



CRITTER CALENDAR

BATTER UP

Bark in the Ballpark is back Friday for a game between the Clearwater Threshers and the Jupiter Hammerheads at Bright House Field, 601 Old Coachman Road, Clearwater. Gates open at 6 p.m. for the 7 p.m. game. The Humane Society will have pets available for adoption, vendors, raffles and T-shirts. Bring your dog for a post-game run of the bases. Tickets are \$4 for people and dogs. Call (727) 467-4457 for information.

SATURDAY IN THE PARK

Medicine River Animal Hospital hosts a pet health fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Walsingham Park, 12615 102nd Ave. N., Largo. There will be demonstrations of acupuncture, food and massage therapy, pet CPR, agility, and lots of information for keeping pets safe and happy. For details, call (727) 299-9029.

CAT TALK

Get inside your cat's head and learn what drives those morning "wake-up calls," nighttime howling and frisky fighting during a class from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo. The second hour will focus on feline health. The cost is \$10 for the public and free for SPCA adopters. For information, visit www.SPCA TampaBay.org or call (727) 586-3591, ext. 167.

BOWLED OVER

Don your snazziest bowling shirt for the Tampa Bay Pet Bowl, hosted by the SPCA, at 1 p.m. June 27 at Seminole Lanes, 8668 Park Blvd., Seminole. Teams of five can register at www.spcatampabay.org for \$50 a person (\$250 a team). Proceeds go toward medical testing and vaccinations for the shelter animals.

An influx of puppies and kittens has the SPCA in need of donations for its foster parents. These volunteers take care of young pets until they are ready for adoption, and require supplies such as newspapers, laundry detergent and paper towels. Drop off donations at 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo. To become a foster parent or see a full list of needed items, visit www.spcatampabay.org or call (727) 586-3591.

SPOT SOLUTION

Stop Pet Overpopulation Together will provide free vaccinations for the first 100 puppies age 2 to 6 months that are spayed or neutered in June at 4403 62nd Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Get a free training DVD from Animal Planet, too. To make an appointment, call (727) 329-8657.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

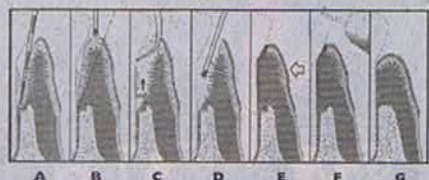
The Humane Society of Tampa Bay needs donations for its Food Assistance Program. They can be dropped off during business hours at 3607 N. Armenia Ave., Tampa. Call (813) 774-4309 for information.

Send announcements of Critter Calendar events at least 10 days before anticipated publication to baylife@tampatrib.com.



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Therapeutic Treatment Procedure

- Perio probe indicates excessive pocket depth.
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- Ultrasonic scaler and special hand instruments are used to remove root tartar.
- Laser finishes cleaning and sterilizing pocket which aids in sealing the pocket closed so new germs cannot enter.
- Reattachment of connective tissue to the clean root surface with a stable fibrin clot and gingival crest to create "a closed system".
- Bite trauma is adjusted.
- New attachment is regenerated. New bone and new ligament is formed and healing occurs.

THE MOST FUN YOU CAN HAVE WITHOUT A PASSPORT

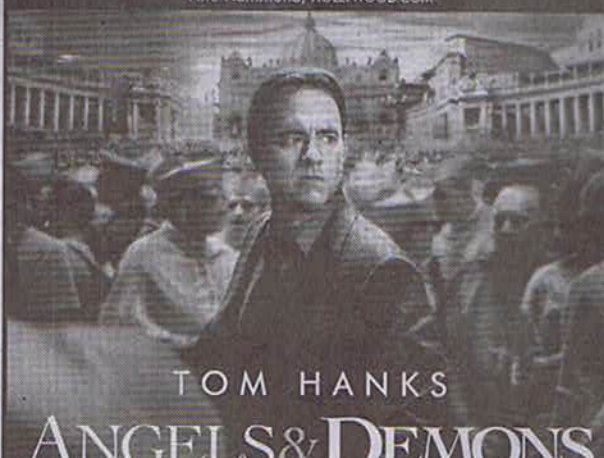


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